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MANILA FOR ECON/COMM ANTHONY GEBER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ASEAN

SUBJECT: US-ASEAN DIALOGUE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN AMENDED VERSION OF THE DRAFT
JOINT PRESS RELEASE WHICH TONY GEBER SHOULD USE IN HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS. MANALO.

DRAFT JOINT PRESS RELEASE

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE ASEAN-UNITED STATES DIALOGUE
WAS HELD IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 3-4, 1978.

GENERAL CARLOS P. ROMULO, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE PHILIPPINES WAS THE ASEAN SPOKESMAN. THE ASEAN
DELEGATIONS WERE LED BY:
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THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT WAS REPRESENTED BY:

THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WAS LED BY THE HONORABLE
CYRUS VANCE, SECRETARY OF STATE.

PRESIDENT CARTER RECEIVED THE ASEAN DELEGATION AND JOINED

THE US DELEGATION IN REAFFIRMING STRONG US SUPPORT FOR
THE GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASEAN. HE NOTED THE
EXCELLENT EXAMPLE SET FOR OTHERS BY ASEAN'S COOPERATIVE

CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROGRESS; BY ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING AND BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; AND BY ITS PURSUIT OF SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS COMMON TO ALL NATIONS AND PEOPLES SUCH AS BETTER HEALTH AND EDUCATION, GREATER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY. HE PLEDGED CONTINUED US COOPERATION IN ADVANCING THE STABILITY AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE COHESION AND COOPERATION WHICH THE ASSOCIATION HAS SO FRUITFULLY FOSTERED.

THE MEETING PROVIDED A WIDE SCOPE FOR REVIEWING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION AND IN THE WORLD ECONOMY, WHICH HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON THE WELL-BEING OF ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES AND ON US-ASEAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND OF OPENING WORLD MARKETS WAS AGAIN UNDERSCORED BY BOTH THE ASEAN AND US DELEGATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE US AND ASEAN ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY DISTANT, THEY MUTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR GROWING IMPORTANCE TO EACH OTHER AND TO OTHER NATIONS IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD.

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NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

THE MEETING REVIEWED THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES SINCE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ASEAN-US DIALOGUE IN MANILA IN SEPTEMBER OF LAST YEAR. VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED ON THE FIRST MEETING OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, HELD IN NEW YORK ON MAY 3-13, 1978 AND ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THAT BODY. THERE WAS A DETAILED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE STATE OF THE COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS AND THE STATUS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. US SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE RECENTLY HELD OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING AND THE BONN SUMMIT AS THEY PERTAINED TO ASEAN AND TO GENERAL NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES. THE MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT UNCTAD MEETING, TO BE HELD IN MANILA IN MAY 1979. BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THE INTENTION TO MAKE GREATER EFFORTS TO FIND COOPERATIVE SOLUTIONS TO NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEMS AND TO AVOID STRIDENT CONFRONTATIONS.

TRADE AND COMMODITY POLICIES

ASEAN MINISTERS INDICATED THAT ASEAN'S PRIORITY OBJECTIVES ARE IN THE AREAS OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND COMMODITY PRICE STABILIZATION. ASEAN DEEMS THAT MARKET ACCESS, (WHERE POSSIBLE ON A PREFERENTIAL BASIS), PROTECTION

AGAINST UNWARRANTED TRADE RESTRICTIONS, STABEX-TYPE ARRANGEMENTS TO COMPENSATE REDUCED EARNINGS FROM COMMODITY EXPORTS, AND ASSISTANCE IN PROMOTING ASEAN EXPORTS ARE ALL IMPORTANT IN ENHANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT FOR ASEAN'S 200 MILLION PEOPLE.

THE UNITED STATES OBSERVED THAT IT REPRESENTS ONE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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WORLD'S LARGEST MARKET FOR ASEAN PRODUCTS, AND THAT ASEAN AS A GROUP, HAS A SURPLUS IN ITS EXPANDING TRADE WITH THE US. THE US CITED THE LOW LEVEL OF IMPORT BARRIERS TO ITS LARGE OPEN MARKET AS WELL AS ITS STRONG LEADERSHIP IN SEEKING FURTHER LIBERALIZATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM THROUGH THE MTN. THIS IS THE MEANS BY WHICH THE US BELIEVES IT CAN MAKE THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO ASEAN TRADE AND COMMODITY INTERESTS. US OFFICIALS UNDERScoreD THAT GLOBAL IMPROVEMENTS IN TRADE AND COMMODITY SYSTEMS ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE AREAS OF PROVIDING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING NATIONS. IN THAT CONNECTION THE US SUGGESTED CONTINUED STUDY WITHIN THE IMF/IBRD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE NEED FOR FURTHER LIBERALIZING THE IMF COMPENSATORY FINANCE FACILITY.

(SECTION ON MTN PROGRESS AND FOLLOW-UP TO BE ADDED)

ASEAN RENEWED ITS REQUEST FOR A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN THE US GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES. THE US SIDE INDICATED THAT WHILE IT RECOGNIZED THE BASES OF THESE REQUESTS, SUCH THOUGHTS WOULD REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO CHANGE EXISTING US LEGISLATION.

THE DISCUSSION ON COMMODITY POLICY PROBLEMS FOCUSSED ON RAW MATERIALS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ASEAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ON A RUBBER STABILIZATION AGREEMENT AND CURRENT ISSUES IN THE INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL. THE PROSPECT FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON THE COMMON FUND WAS ANOTHER PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AND THERE WAS A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND A SHARED DESIRE TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCES. IT WAS AGREED TO CONSULT PERIODICALLY AS NECESSARY ON
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VARIOUS COMMODITY ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

BUSINESS RELATIONS AND INVESTMENT

THE ASEAN AND US DELEGATIONS EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE

IMPORTANT ROLE FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT CAN PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN. THE UNITED STATES AGAIN DECLARED ITS READINESS TO FACILITATE BUSINESS CONTACTS AND INVESTMENT WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO ASEAN DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES. AN ASEAN INVESTMENT MISSION OF INTERESTED AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO BE ORGANIZED BY THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION WAS ANNOUNCED AT THE MEETING, AS WELL AS A VISIT TO ASEAN BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK. PLANS WERE APPROVED FOR THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASEAN-US BUSINESS COUNCIL UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ASEAN AND US CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A COUNCIL SHOULD GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO EXPANDED INTEREST BY THE US PRIVATE SECTOR IN MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN ASEAN COUNTRIES. THE US SIDE POINTED OUT THAT WITH INCREASED ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE AND GROWING INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE FLOW OF AMERICAN INVESTMENT TO THE REGION WILL BE INCREASINGLY INFLUENCED BY THE DEVELOPMENTS IN AND POLICIES OF ASEAN ITSELF.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS GENERAL POLICIES THE UNITED STATES RECONFIRMED ITS READINESS TO PARTICIPATE WITH ASEAN IN A RANGE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE ASSISTANCE EXTENDED BILATERALLY TO ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES. IN FOLLOWING UP ON THE DECLARATIONS OF THE US VICE PRESIDENT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THE REGION, THE US STATED THAT AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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WOULD BE KEY THEMES OF US DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. THE US SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY NOTED WITH APPROVAL THE GROWING ASEAN REGIONAL COOPERATION IN FOOD AND ENERGY AND REVIEWED BRIEFLY US POLICIES AND POTENTIAL US COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS. THE AID ADMINISTRATOR WELCOMED THE OUTCOME OF THE RECENT JOINT WORKING GROUP MEETING OF ASEAN AND US DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS AND ANNOUNCED THAT AID IS READY TO PROCEED TO THE PROJECT DESIGN PHASE ON FOUR PROJECTS, I.E. AN ASEAN PLANT PROTECTION PROGRAM, AN ASEAN WATERSHED CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT, ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASEAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING CENTER AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE RECENT DECISION BY ASEAN TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL RICE RESERVE SYSTEM WAS WELCOMED BY THE UNITED STATES AS AN

EXAMPLE OF ACTION CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOLUTION OF GLOBAL PROBLEMS. THE US WILL CONSIDER PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THIS PLAN.

THE MEETING AGREED TO ESTABLISH A CONSULTATIVE US-ASEAN WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE MEANS OF FURTHERING THE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES IN ASEAN AREA.

THE MEETING AGREED TO UNDERTAKE FOLLOW-UP CONSULTATIONS ON ASEAN-US COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH WOULD BE PRIMARILY AIMED AT UPGRADING THE INDIGENOUS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAPACITY OF ASEAN.

THE US AND ASEAN DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZED THE INCREASING THREAT OF NARCOTICS TO THE HEALTH OF PEOPLES IN BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND PLEDGED INCREASED EFFORTS TO BRING THIS PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL. AS PART OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THE EFFORT, THE US AGREED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AN ASEAN PROGRAM OF PREVENTIVE DRUG EDUCATION, AS WELL AS CONTINUING ITS BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO ASEAN COUNTRIES TO IDENTIFY AND EXPAND THE PRODUCTION OF NEW CROPS AND OTHER MEASURES TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS.

REFUGEES

SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS ALSO GIVEN, AT ASEAN'S REQUEST, TO THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES. THE HUMAN SUFFERING, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BURDEN AND THE POLITICAL STRAINS MAKE THIS PROBLEM A SERIOUS THREAT TO ASEAN'S OBJECTIVES AND HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR AN URGENT INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO DEAL WITH IT. THE US PRAISED THE SACRIFICES MADE BY THE ASEAN COUNTRIES TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE REFUGEE PROBLEM AND PLEDGED TO CONTINUE ITS ASSISTANCE WHILE ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO DO MORE.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES

DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD ON EXPANDING THE SCOPE AND RANGE OF THE INTELLECTUAL CONTACTS BETWEEN ASEAN AND THE US. AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO ESTABLISH AN ASEAN-US INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHICH WILL SUPPLEMENT EXISTING BILATERAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE ASEAN NATIONS. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO ESTABLISH AN ASEAN-US COORDINATING COUNCIL TO PLAN AND SELECT ASEAN-US EXCHANGE PROJECTS AND TO OVERSEE THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

THE MEETING WAS RECOGNIZED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS AS AN
IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE GROWING FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORA-

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TION BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION AND THE UNITED STATES. IT
PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR LEADERS TO MEET AND
PURSUE TOGETHER SHARED AS WELL AS SEPARATE ASPIRATIONS
AND GOALS, AND TO CONSIDER STRENGTHENING US SUPPORT FOR
THE PEACE, FREEDOM, NEUTRALITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE
REGION. THE CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE WAS DEEMED
IMPORTANT IN PURSUING THESE GOALS BY EFFECTIVE MEANS AND
IN IDENTIFYING THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF EACH OF THE
PARTNERS IN THIS COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE NEXT ASEAN-US MEETING WILL BE
HELD NEXT YEAR IN THE ASEAN REGION. NO DATE WAS SET.
IT WAS AGREED THAT THE WASHINGTON MEETING SET A FULL
AGENDA TO BE PURSUED DURING THE NEXT YEAR ENCOMPASSING
TRADE, COMMODITIES, BUSINESS RELATIONS AND A WIDE RANGE
OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAMS.

2. FOR US-ASEAN COORDINATOR GEBER: MOST CHANGES ARE
MINOR. HOWEVER, TWO SENTENCES WERE EXCISED FROM SECTION
ON TRADE AND COMMODITY POLICIES AS THEY WERE DEEMED
UNNECESSARILY CONTROVERSIAL UNLESS ASEAN MAKES THE POINTS.
IF SO, THE COMMENTS CAN BE REINSERTED DURING THE NEGOTI-
ATION PROCESS. CHRISTOPHER

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